

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PANAMA 05047 142024Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 ICA-11 PA-01 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 /080 W
-----027828 142051Z /14
P 142021Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7952

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 05047

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PN
SUBJ: REGIONALLY FOCUSED SPEECHES ON HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: A. STATE 176956, B. PANAMA 2818

1. REF B SUMMARIZES THE GOP'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN GENERAL. THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT IS ITSELF AN ACTIVE ADVOCATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA.

2. OFFICIAL PANAMANIAN REACTION TO U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IS BASICALLY FAVORABLE. HOWEVER, MOST OF THE PRESSURE EXERTED ON PANAMA CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS HAS COME FROM U.S. SENATORS WHO VISITED PANAMA IN THE COURSE OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY DEBATE, A TIME WHEN PANAMA WAS RELATIVELY ANXIOUS TO PLEASE. THIS PRESSURE HAS HAD SOME RESULTS, SUCH AS THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO REVOKE CERTAIN REPRESSIVE LAWS AND TO ALLOW POLITICAL EXILES TO RETURN TO THE COUNTRY.

3. GEN. TORRIJOS HAS CONSISTENTLY AVOIDED TALKING ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN PANAMA ON THE GROUNDS THAT NONE EXIST HERE. HE SEEMS TO FEEL A GREAT PERSONAL ADMIRATION FOR PRESIDENT CARTER, IN PART BECAUSE OF THE PRESIDENT'S
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PANAMA 05047 142024Z

STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AND WE BELIEVE THAT THAT ADMIRATION IS SHARED BY MANY PANAMANIAN. BUT IF HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS ARISE WHICH LEAD THE U.S. TO TAKE A MORE AGGRESSIVE STAND VIS-A-VIS PANAMA, SOME OF THIS GOOD FEELING MAY WELL WEAR OFF, HAVING A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE SPIRIT OF U.S.-PANAMANIAN COOPERATION SO NECESSARY TO THE TREATY IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD WE ARE NOW ENTERING.

4. AMONG PRIVATE PANAMANIAN, PARTICULARLY THOSE OF AN ANTI-TORRIJOS BENT, A CERTAIN INCONSISTENCY IS SEEN IN U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. MANY BELIEVE THAT THE U.S., IN SUPPORTING AND NEGOTIATING A TREATY WITH THE TORRIJOS GOVERNMENT, VIOLATES ITS OWN HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY BY DEALING WITH AN "ILLEGAL DICTATORSHIP".

5. PANAMANIAN AS A WHOLE HAVE TENDED TO VIEW THE VERY FACT OF THE U.S. PRESENCE IN THE ZONE AND U.S. CONTROL OVER PANAMANIAN TERRITORY AS A SORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION OF THEIR ENTIRE COUNTRY. IN A SIMILAR VEIN, MANY BELIEVE THAT ANY NUMBER OF OTHER COUNTRIES -- NICARAGUA IS A FAVORITE EXAMPLE -- ARE MORE APPROPRIATE TARGETS OF U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY THAN IS PANAMA.
JORDEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, SPEECHES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PANAMA05047
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780289-0821
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780759/aaaabxmd.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c9ea0773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 176956, 78 PANAMA 2818
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2003419
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REGIONALLY FOCUSED SPEECHES ON HUMAN RIGHTS
TAGS: SHUM, PN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c9ea0773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014